IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Previously Presented) An image forming apparatus that forms an image using an electrophotographic process, comprising:

a photoconductor that includes at least a conductive support, an undercoat layer, and a photoconductive layer, wherein the photoconductor has a surface with either a 10-point average roughness RzJIS of 0.1 μm ≤RzJIS≤1.5 μm or a maximum height Rz of 2.5 μm or lower;

a charger that charges the photoconductor;

a developing device that develops a latent image on the photoconductor with toner to obtain a toner image;

a transfer device that transfers the toner image to a transfer element;

a cleaning device including a cleaning blade that cleans off toner remaining on the photoconductor after the toner image has been transferred;

the photoconductor having a frictional resistance Rf of from 45 gram-force to 200 gram-force against

~~a belt that is suspended in a circumferential direction of the photoconductor, the belt being~~ a flat type belt made of polyurethane, and the belt having a JIS-A hardness of 83 degrees, a width of 5 mm, a length of 325 mm, a thickness of 2 mm, and a dead weight of 4.58 grams, ~~wherein~~ the frictional resistance Rf of from 45 gram-force to 200 gram-force existing when the belt is suspended in a circumferential direction of the photoconductor

a 100-gram load is hung at one end of the belt so that a contact length thereof with the photoconductor is 3 mm and a contact area is 15 mm^2 during determination of frictional resistance of the photoconductor against the belt,

a digital force gauge is fixed to another end of the belt and a value is read from

the digital force gauge when the belt moves, and

~~the frictional resistance Rf of the photoconductor against the belt is 45 gram-force<Rf<200 gram-force,~~ the frictional resistance Rf measured under such conditions that a value obtained by subtracting the 100-gram load from the read value of the digital force gauge is determined as the frictional resistance Rf.

2. (Original) The image forming apparatus according to claim 1, wherein

the photoconductor has a 10-point average roughness RzJIS of 0.1 μm ≤RzJIS≤1.0 μm,

the belt has a JIS-A hardness of 83 degrees, and

the cleaning blade is in contact with the photoconductor in a counter direction and includes an edge having a surface roughness of 70 μm or lower.

3. (Original) The image forming apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the frictional resistance Rf measured at a temperature ranging from 15°C to 22°C and a humidity ranging from 55 %RH to 65 %RH.

4. (Original) The image forming apparatus according to claim 1, wherein a surface roughness of an edge of the cleaning blade ranges from 10 μm to 70 μm.

5. (Original) The image forming apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the JIS-A hardness of an edge of the cleaning blade that comes in contact with the photoconductor ranges from 70 degrees to 90 degrees.

6. (Original) The image forming apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the cleaning blade comes in contact with the photoconductor in a counter direction at a contact pressure ranging from 10 g/cm to 40 g/cm.

7. (Original) The image forming apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the cleaning blade comes in contact with the photoconductor in a counter direction at a contact pressure ranging from 10 g/cm to 25 g/cm.

8. (Original) The image forming apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the cleaning blade is made of polyurethane rubber.

9. (Original) The image forming apparatus according to claim 1, wherein a maximum valley depth Rv of an edge of the cleaning blade in contact with the photoconductor is 40 μm or less.

10. (Original) The image forming apparatus according to claim 1, wherein a maximum valley depth Rv of an edge of the cleaning blade in contact with the photoconductor is 30 μm or less.

11. (Original) The image forming apparatus according to claim 1, wherein a lubricant is applied to an edge of the cleaning blade in contact with the photoconductor.

12. (Original) The image forming apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the toner has an average sphericity ranging from 0.96 to 0.998.

13. (Previously Presented) The image forming apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the cleaning device includes a cleaning brush provided on an upstream side of the cleaning blade in a direction of rotation of the photoconductor, the cleaning brush being made of conductive looped fiber.

14. (Previously Presented) The image forming apparatus according to claim 13, wherein the cleaning brush is connected to either of a power supply that supplies a voltage to the cleaning brush or an electric circuit that grounds the cleaning brush.

15. (Original) The image forming apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising:

a frictional-resistance reducing unit that reduces frictional resistance of the photoconductor so as to maintain the frictional resistance Rf in the range of 45 gram-force<Rf<200 gram-force.

16. (Original) The image forming apparatus according to claim 15, wherein the frictional-resistance reducing unit includes a lubricant applying unit that applies a lubricant to a surface layer of the photoconductor.

17. (Original) The image forming apparatus according to claim 16, wherein the lubricant applying unit non-uniformly applies the lubricant over a surface layer of the photoconductor.

18. (Previously Presented) The image forming apparatus according to claim 16, wherein the lubricant is either of zinc stearate or fluororesin.

19. (Original) The image forming apparatus according to claim 1, wherein a charge transport layer of the photoconductor is an organic photoconductive layer.

20. (Original) The image forming apparatus according to claim 1, wherein a charge transport layer of the photoconductor includes two layers, a charge transport layer without filler and a filler-containing charge transport layer with filler.

21. (Original) The image forming apparatus according to claim 20, wherein a weight average particle size of the filler, which forms the filler-containing charge transport layer, ranges from 0.2 μm to 0.7 μm, and a content of the filler ranges from 10 % by weight to 30 % by weight of the total weight of the filler-containing charge transport layer.

22. (Previously Presented) The image forming apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the charger includes a charging member that is applied with either of a direct current voltage or a direct current voltage with an alternating current voltage superposed thereon, and sets a charging potential of the photoconductor before formation of an electrostatic latent image to from 400 volts to 800 volts to form an image.

23. (Currently Amended) A process cartridge comprising a cartridge case that is detachably mounted in an image forming apparatus accommodates at least a photoconductor and a cleaning device of an image forming apparatus, wherein the image forming apparatus forms an image using an electrophotographic process and includes

a photoconductor that includes at least a conductive support, an undercoat layer, and a photoconductive layer, wherein the photoconductor has a surface with either a 10-point

average roughness RzJIS of 0.1 μm ≤RzJIS≤1.5 μm or a maximum height Rz of 2.5 μm or lower;

a charger that charges the photoconductor;

a developing device that develops a latent image on the photoconductor with toner to obtain a toner image;

a transfer device that transfers the toner image to a transfer element;

a cleaning device including a cleaning blade that cleans off toner remaining on the photoconductor after the toner image has been transferred;

the photoconductor having a frictional resistance Rf of from 45 gram-force to 200 gram-force against

~~a belt that is suspended in a circumferential direction of the photoconductor, the belt being~~ a flat type belt made of polyurethane, and the belt having a JIS-A hardness of 83 degrees, a width of 5 mm, a length of 325 mm, a thickness of 2 mm, and a dead weight of 4.58 grams, ~~wherein~~ the frictional resistance Rf of from 45 gram-force to 200 gram-force existing when the belt is suspended in a circumferential direction of the photoconductor

a 100-gram load is hung at one end of the belt so that a contact length thereof with the photoconductor is 3 mm and a contact area is 15 mm^2 during determination of frictional resistance of the photoconductor against the belt,

a digital force gauge is fixed to another end of the belt and a value is read from the digital force gauge when the belt moves, and

~~the frictional resistance Rf of the photoconductor against the belt is 45 gram-force<Rf<200 gram-force,~~ the frictional resistance Rf measured under such conditions that a value obtained by subtracting the 100-gram load from the read value of the digital force gauge is determined as the frictional resistance Rf.

24. (Original) The process cartridge according to claim 23, wherein

the photoconductor has a 10-point average roughness RzJIS of 0.1 μm ≤RzJIS≤1.0 μm,

the belt has a JIS-A hardness of 83 degrees, and

the cleaning blade is in contact with the photoconductor in a counter direction and includes an edge having a surface roughness of 70 μm or lower.

25. (Currently Amended) The process cartridge according to claim 23, wherein the frictional resistance Rf is measured at a temperature ranging from 15°C to 22°C and a humidity ranging from 55 %RH to 65 %RH.

26. (Original) The process cartridge according to claim 23, wherein a surface roughness of an edge of the cleaning blade ranges from 10 μm to 70 μm.

27. (Original) The process cartridge according to claim 23, wherein the JIS-A hardness of an edge of the cleaning blade that comes in contact with the photoconductor ranges from 70 degrees to 90 degrees.

28. (Original) The process cartridge according to claim 23, wherein the cleaning blade comes in contact with the photoconductor in a counter direction at a contact pressure ranging from 10 g/cm to 40 g/cm.

29. (Original) The process cartridge according to claim 23, wherein the cleaning blade comes in contact with the photoconductor in a counter direction at a contact pressure ranging from 10 g/cm to 25 g/cm.

30. (Original) The process cartridge according to claim 23, wherein the cleaning blade is made of polyurethane rubber.

31. (Original) The process cartridge according to claim 23, wherein a lubricant is applied to an edge of the cleaning blade.

32. (Previously Presented) The process cartridge according to claim 23, wherein the cleaning device includes a cleaning brush provided on an upstream side of the cleaning blade in a direction of rotation of the photoconductor, the cleaning brush being made of conductive looped fiber.

33. (Original) The process cartridge according to claim 23, further comprising:

a frictional-resistance reducing unit that reduces frictional resistance of the photoconductor so as to maintain the frictional resistance Rf in the range of 45 gram-force<Rf<200 gram-force.

34. (Original) The process cartridge according to claim 33, wherein the frictional-resistance reducing unit includes a lubricant applying unit that applies a lubricant to a surface layer of the photoconductor.

35. (Original) The process cartridge according to claim 34, wherein the lubricant applying unit non-uniformly applies the lubricant over a surface layer of the photoconductor.

36. (Previously Presented) The process cartridge according to claim 34, wherein the lubricant is either of zinc stearate or fluororesin.

37. (Original) The process cartridge according to claim 23, wherein a charge transport layer of the photoconductor is an organic photoconductive layer.

38. (Original) The process cartridge according to claim 23, wherein a charge transport layer of the photoconductor includes two layers, a charge transport layer without filler and a filler-containing charge transport layer with filler.

39. (Original) The process cartridge according to claim 38, wherein a weight average particle size of the filler, which forms the filler-containing charge transport layer, ranges from 0.2 μm to 0.7 μm, and a content of the filler ranges from 10 % by weight to 30 % by weight of the total weight of the filler-containing charge transport layer.

40. (Currently Amended) A method of forming an image with an image forming apparatus, the image forming apparatus configured to form an image using an electrophotographic process and a including a photoconductor that includes at least a conductive support, an undercoat layer, and a photoconductive layer, the photoconductor having a surface with either a 10-point average roughness RzJIS of 0.1 μm ≤RzJIS≤1.5 μm or a maximum height Rz of 2.5 μm or lower, a charger that charges the photoconductor, a developing device that develops a latent image on the photoconductor with toner to obtain a toner image, a transfer device that transfers the toner image to a transfer element, a cleaning device including a cleaning blade that cleans off toner remaining on the photoconductor after the toner image has been transferred,

the photoconductor having a frictional resistance Rf of from 45 gram-force to 200 gram-force against

~~a belt that is suspended in a circumferential direction of the photoconductor, the belt being~~ a flat type belt made of polyurethane, and the belt having a JIS-A hardness of 83 degrees, a width of 5 mm, a length of 325 mm, a thickness of 2 mm, and a dead weight of 4.58 grams, ~~the method comprising:~~ the frictional resistance Rf of from 45 gram-force to 200 gram-force existing when the belt is suspended in a circumferential direction of the photoconductor

~~determining that a frictional resistance Rf of the photoconductor against the belt is 45 grams-force<RF<200 gram-force, wherein determining that the frictional resistance Rf of the photoconductor against the belt is 45 grams-force<Rf<200 gram-force comprises~~

~~hanging~~ a 100-gram load is hung at one end of the belt so that a contact length thereof with the photoconductor is 3 mm and a contact area is 15 mm^2;

~~connecting~~ a force gauge is connected to another end of the belt;

~~reading~~ a value is read from the force gauge when the belt moves, and

the frictional resistance RF measured under such conditions that a value obtained by subtracting the 100-gram load from the read value of the force gauge ~~to determine~~ is determined as the frictional resistance Rf, ~~and~~ the method, comprising:

forming the image with the image forming apparatus in which the frictional resistance Rf of the photoconductor against the belt is 45 gram-force<Rf<200 gram-force.